

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park



Tallapoosa River Canoe Trips

You must provide your own canoe, boat, etc. There are no rental locations near the park.

[Wadley to Germany's Ferry](#), approximately 19.5 miles; float time two days.

Directions from the park: Take Tallapoosa County Highway 79 to Daviston and turn right on Alabama Highway 22. Follow Highway 22 to Wadley and the Tallapoosa River Bridge. This is the put-in point. The first take-out will be the Highway Bridge at Germany's Ferry, 19.5 miles on the right side of the river.

[Germany's Ferry to Horseshoe Bend NMP](#), approximately 8.8 miles; float time 1/2 day.

Directions from the park: Take Tallapoosa County Highway 79 to Germany's Ferry Road, Turn right and continue to the river. The put-in will be on the right side of the bridge, approximately 8.8 miles from the Park. The first take-out will be the boat ramp in the Park just past the Highway 49 bridge on the left side of the river. *If you intend to leave your vehicle at the boat ramp over night, you must get a permit at the Visitor Center.*

[Horseshoe Bend NMP to Jay Bird Creek landing](#), approximately 5 miles; float time 1/2 day.

Put-in is at the Park's boat ramp on the south side of Highway 49 bridge. The first take-out approximately 5 miles down stream, will be Jay Bird Creek landing. The take-out is on the left side of the river just past the mouth of Jay Bird Creek. To reach the landing by vehicle go south on Highway 49 to Rock Springs Road, turn right, go to Boone Valley Road and turn right. This road will take you to the river. *Canoe trips may be combined to make a three day outing.*

River Conditions: The Tallapoosa River has two large hydroelectric dams/plants on it. Because of the dams water flow on the river is regulated. Horseshoe Bend NMP is located between two dams; north or up river from the Park is Harris Lake Dam and south or down river is the Lake Martin Dam. And since Lake Martin is a busy tourist area Alabama Power, which operates both dams, tries to maintain a full pool (water level) at Lake Martin from Memorial Day to Labor Day each year. Generally water is released from Harris Lake between 11 PM and midnight; the amount of released water is dependent on the demand for electrical power and rainfall. Water levels can rise one to four feet during a release so care should be taken when considering a campsite. *Be aware however that water levels can be quite low so you should be prepared to portage (carry) or drag your canoe over low water shoals.*



Climate: The mean annual temperature of the region averages 66 degrees F. Daytime maximum temperatures in June, July and August will most often exceed 90 degrees F. During the summer, even on overcast days, there is a potential for serious sunburn; proper clothing and/or sunscreen should be used. During the winter, minimum temperatures range from 35 to 43 degrees F which mean the combination of cool air and cold water creates ideal conditions for hypothermia so care should be taken to stay dry and warm.

Biting Creatures: There are healthy populations of insects and reptiles in the area and while annoying at times, most problems associated with them can be avoided with a little common sense. Mosquitoes, midges (no-see-ums), deer and black flies, ticks and chiggers are most prevalent in the summer and can be controlled with the use of insect repellent and/or protective clothing. You should also keep a watchful eye out for hornets, wasps, fire ants and snakes. Avoid them if at all possible and always locate your campsite a safe distance from nests or ant hills.

Vandalism: Many river accesses are in remote areas so take caution to lock and protect your vehicles and property. Valuables should be stored in the trunk or out of sight; if possible try to make arrangements to leave (with permission) your vehicle at a nearby home, church or business.

Ownership and Environmental Considerations: In most cases if a stream is navigable, in the legal sense, ownership of the streambed is public. However, property rights of those who own the land along streams extend to the ordinary low water mark which means once you leave the river you could be on private land. The Tallapoosa River flows through privately owned land, Alabama Power land and land administered by the National Park Service. *Camping is not permitted on either Alabama Power or NPS land; therefore if you intend to spend a night along the river you should get permission from the land owner(s) when planning your trip.*

For the sake of the environment, paddlers are responsible for upholding the integrity of the land through "low or no impact" camping. Litter, fire scars, pollution from human excrement, cutting trees, etc. are unsightly and affect the land in a way that threatens to ruin the outdoor experience for us all. *Information about "low or no Impact" camping is available from the visitor center.*

